

Erratumgale

(*Luscinia Musical*)

01 Aug - 17 Aug, 2013 : Duchamp Festival, Herne Bay, UK.

19 Oct - 02 Nov, 2013 : Canterbury Festival, Canterbury, UK.

05 Nov - 17 Nov, 2013 : Garden of Earthly Delights, Faversham, UK.

This installation is an extension of Robert Jarvis' series of *Singing Windows* sound-works that took place throughout East Kent between July 2013 and January 2014. It was commissioned by, and created especially for, Herne Bay's "I Am Not Dead – I am in Herne Bay" arts festival - a celebration of Marcel Duchamp's visit to the town in August 1913. The work takes its inspiration from a musical composition conceived by Duchamp, also in 1913, where chance notes drawn from a hat determined a musical score. (Originally Duchamp's idea was a for short vocal performance shared between him and his sisters; however, later on in the year it was adapted for piano, retaining the same title of "Erratum Musical".

Just as Marcel Duchamp championed the use of glass in his later contemporary works, so too does Jarvis' *Singing Windows* series of installations. Using *Feonic* technology Robert's installations convert shop windows into loudspeakers, allowing the sound to be subtly played in the hosting locations. The *Erratumgale* installation for Herne Bay made use of five large windows placed around a quiet crossroads in the pedestrian precinct in the centre of the town, with the audio synchronised in such a way that the windows appeared to respond to each other as they played their sound – with no more than one window playing at any one time.

Erratumgale employs Duchamp's strategy of using piano notes derived from chance procedure; however, on this occasion they are answered by the lyrical composed phrases of a nightingale – in a similar manner perhaps to the 1920's recordings of Beatrice Harrison who used to play her cello in her cottage garden whilst being accompanied by nightingale song. The installation juxtaposes these two audio ready-mades and a dialogue between these two sonic worlds ensues. The composition has three movements, each one using a different sounding piano and also different piano/nightingale relationships.

Whilst *Erratumgale* was only one aspect of the complete *Singing Windows* series of installations, its objective fitted with the overall aim of the entire project, which was to change how people felt about urban space. On this level, the series of installations were deemed to be very successful, with one of the outcomes being a noted decline in anti-social behaviour of 11.5%. (Margate Task Force were partners throughout the length of the project). In June 2014 *Singing Windows* was awarded an East Kent Culture Award in recognition of its impact on local social and environmental factors.